

INFORMATION ~~SECRET~~

211658

COUNTRY Bolivia/Argentina/Peru

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DATE DISTR.22 June 1948

SUBJECT Possible Return of Movimiento Nacionalista
Revolucionario (MNR) Exiles to Bolivia

NO. OF PAGES

25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1A

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. SO 8397

25X1X

SOURCE

25X1X

1. It is reported that the Hertzog Government, in spite of public declarations to the contrary, has no desire to have Movimiento Nacionalista Revolucionario (MNR) exiles return to Bolivia to stand trial for their alleged wrongdoings during the Villarroel regime. The Hertzog Government believes that their coming to Bolivia at this time would make the present political situation much more unstable, since any trials of MNR leaders might possibly make them martyrs in the eyes of many Bolivians.
2. The public position of the Hertzog regime is to make it appear that the Government is very anxious to have the exiled leaders returned, and it has been reported that extradition proceedings had been instituted against leaders of the MNR now in Argentina and Peru.
3. A report from Argentina indicates that the Bolivian Embassy in Buenos Aires has not received any official instructions concerning the extradition of Paz Estenssoro and other MNR exiles.
4. The MNR National Command is aware of the anxiety felt by the Government over the return of the political exiles, who are reported to number about 120 persons. The National Command of the MNR has encouraged several of these exiles to present themselves at Bolivian consulates and apply for Bolivian visas in order to return to Bolivia to stand trial. In 27 different cases, [redacted] visas have been refused. The MNR National Command is said to be considering setting a specific date at which time all of the 120 exiles will make legal or illegal entrance into Bolivia with demands that they be tried for alleged crimes and that their status before law be fully determined. For that reason, immigration personnel and frontier guards have been instructed to prevent such entrance of the exiles.

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Next Review Date: 2003

Document No. 07

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DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1205

Date: 01/05/78 By: 029

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